



HMH-463 Commanding Officer's Policy on Hazing



Hazing is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated within Pegasus.

Hazing is defined as "any conduct whereby a military member or members, regardless of Service or rank, without proper authority causes another military member or members, regardless of Service or rank, to suffer or be exposed to any activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning, or harmful. Soliciting or coercing another to perpetrate any such activity is also considered hazing. Hazing need not involve physical contact among or between military members; it can be verbal or psychological in nature. Actual or implied consent to acts of hazing does not eliminate culpability of the perpetrator."

Hazing can include but is not limited to: physically striking another to inflict pain; piercing skin; striking, branding, taping, tattooing, shaving, greasing, painting; pinning, tacking on, blood winging; verbally berating; forced consumption of food, alcohol, drugs, or other substances.

Recruit Training and Officer Commissioning Programs are the only Rites of Passage in the Marine Corps. We have all earned the title "Marine", and that is all we need. Other initiations are contrary to our Core Values and to mission accomplishment. They destroy our Marines' confidence and trust in their fellow Marines and the squadron leadership, and undermine unit cohesion and combat readiness. All Marines and leaders at every rank are charged with the responsibility to ensure that hazing does not occur in this squadron at any level. Pegasus Marines take care of each other and treat each other with dignity and respect.

It is every Marine's duty to immediately report any allegations or indications of hazing without fear of reprisal. I have zero tolerance for hazing and violators will be held accountable in accordance with the Uniformed Code of Military Justice.

Semper Fidelis,

R. P. MATYSKIELA

LtCol, USMC

Commanding Officer